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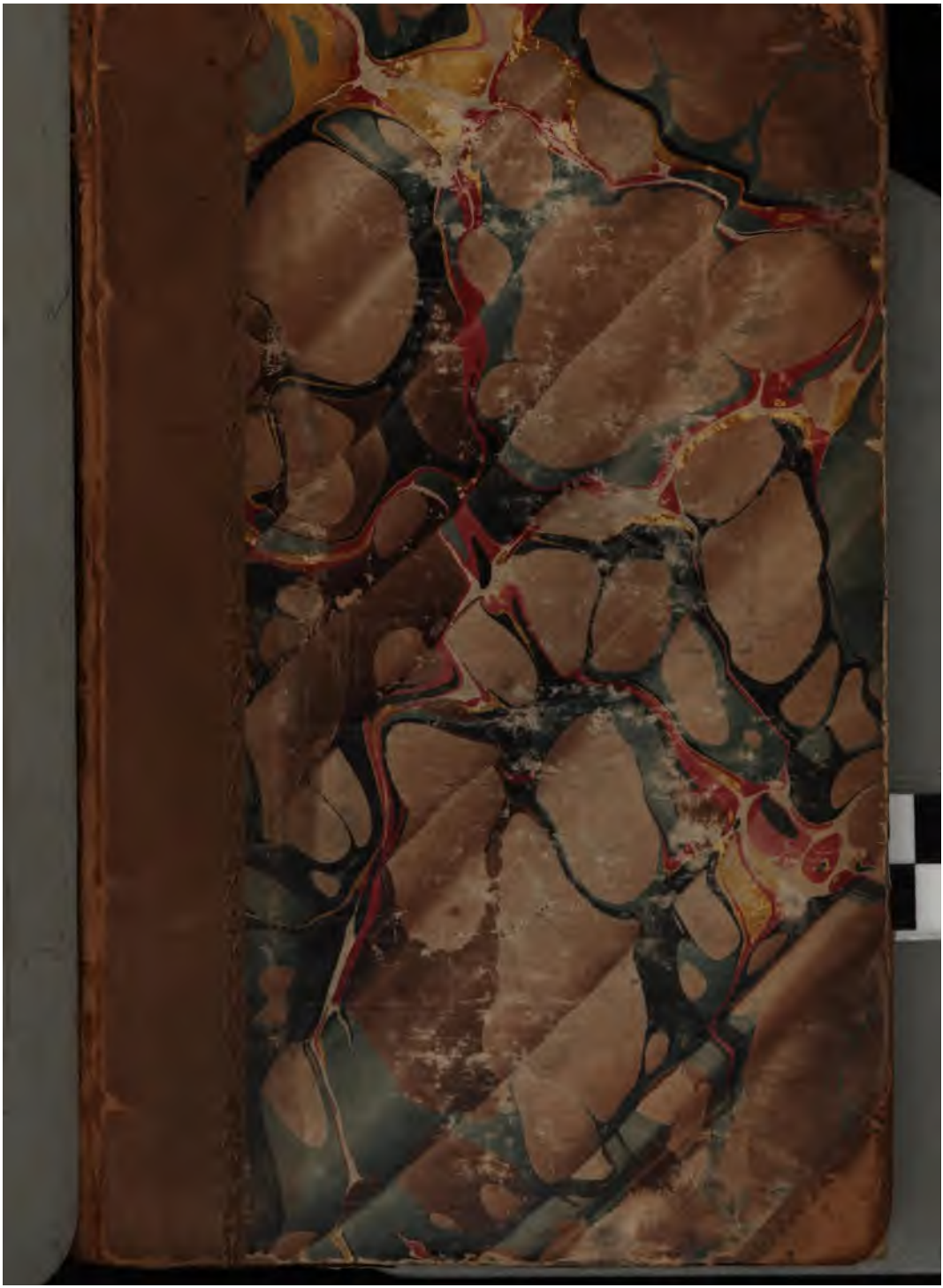

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MEMOIR OF

AUGUSTINE VINCENT,

Windsor Herald.

1617—1624.

J. 1828. 3

MEMOIR

OF

AUGUSTINE VINCENT,

Windsor Herald.

BY NICHOLAS HARRIS NICOLAS, ESQ.
Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

LONDON:
W. PICKERING, CHANCERY LANE.
M.DCCC.XXVII.

BIBLIOTHECA·BODLEIANA·

218.

Thomas White, Printer,
Crane Court.

TO

SIR THOMAS ELMSLEY CROFT, BART.

Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries,

WHO ZEALOUSLY DEVOTES HIMSELF
TO THOSE PURSUITS FOR WHICH AUGUSTINE VINCENT
WAS DISTINGUISHED,
THIS MEMOIR IS INSCRIBED IN TESTIMONY
OF THE AUTHOR'S FRIENDSHIP.

MEMOIR OF

AUGUSTINE VINCENT,

Windsor Herald.

1617--1624.

he allowed him to copy the curious grant of armorial ensigns to Vincent, from a MS. in his library.

March 28th, 1827.

MEMOIR

OF

AUGUSTINE VINCENT.

A SCHOLAR's life, it has been well remarked, presents but few incidents worthy of commemoration; for study and retirement necessarily preclude that extensive intercourse with the world which affords biography its most interesting materials. This observation applies still more strongly to a man, whose reputation was alone acquired by researches of a very abstruse nature, and whose fame rests upon no other basis than those monuments of his industry by which his successors in his profession have so materially benefited.

The duties of a Herald are of so peculiar a kind, that talents and learning of the highest order, even when united to persevering application, are not always sufficient to preserve the name of their possessor from oblivion, beyond the precincts of the College of Arms and the limited circle of those who are interested in antiquarian and genealogical pursuits. Hence, rare indeed are the instances in which the public have appreciated investigations, which in more popular literature would not have failed to secure immortality to their author. An objection may no doubt be offered that researches only deserve estimation in proportion as they are useful, and that the knowledge of heraldry and genealogy, to which many absurdly believe the pursuits of an officer of arms are confined, only tend to flatter

ridiculous pride, or to cherish absurd distinctions. Nothing is more common than such a statement, and were it true, perhaps nothing would be more just. It must, however, not only be observed, that the vanity which is thus indulged is of so harmless a description that its gratification is not injurious to society, but that in a country where an established aristocracy is an integral part of the constitution, the distinctions of birth must exist: and so long as an hereditary house of peers forms one branch of the legislature, it is idle to contemn a science upon which it depends. According to the present laws on the subject, numerous individuals have an interest in the dignity of the peerage, which, though suspended, may, by the mere course of nature, become as indefeasible as to any other species of

inheritance. Thus, then, the duties of a Herald, and the laborious and perplexing investigations in which he is hourly engaged have for their object the establishment of a claim to freehold property, or to the most important honours in the state, as frequently as they tend to gratify the ambition of a mere *parvenu* in endeavouring to conceal his pristine obscurity by a grant of armorial ensigns, which, agreeably to modern practice, are too frequently radiant in hieroglyphical allusions to the trade by which he has just emerged from insignificance. There are, however, other and higher causes which entitle their labours to respect. As adjuncts to history they are almost indispensable; and it is asserted after much reflection, that there is scarcely an important fact in the annals of this country but either had its origin, or be-

came intimately involved in a point of genealogy. The succession of the crown, the many political events which proceeded from marriages between powerful families, and the numerous circumstances which entirely rested upon a question of consanguinity, are striking proofs of the justice of this remark; whilst a careful inquiry will often trace the motive of some extraordinary coalition to a family connection between the parties not generally known. Heraldry too, though not so essential, is nevertheless a valuable assistant to the study of English history and antiquities; nor were these sciences over-rated when they were styled "the handmaids of history." For purposes of biography they are equally essential; and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to become well acquainted with the life of a man

who lived before the seventeenth century, without a reference to the records preserved in the College of Arms; in evidence of which it is sufficient to adduce the fact, that the most valuable matter in the biographical work of an eminent writer of the day*, who is not likely to be suspected of a prejudiced attachment to aristocratical distinctions, is candidly admitted to have been derived from the professional researches of a late able Herald. The same inquiries produce an intimate knowledge of the manners and customs of our ancestors; and perhaps the most distinguished antiquaries of the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First, were those whose acquirements on these subjects were the most extensive and profound.

To form a correct judgment of the

* Goodwin's *Life of Chaucer*.

pretensions of AUGUSTINE VINCENT to the attention of posterity, it was necessary that a short space should have been given to an inquiry into the utility of those researches to which his publication and collections exclusively relate, as their value must, in some degree, depend upon that question. Such was the motive of the preceding remarks; and if they have established that the studies of a Herald are beneficial to the community at large by facilitating the claims of individuals to property, and to literature by illustrating the history and antiquities of our country, as well as the lives of those who have been conspicuous in its annals, the merits of the person, whose unwearied application compiled upwards of *two hundred and thirty* volumes from ancient records, each

tending to these objects, must be universally admitted.

He was descended from a very ancient and highly respectable family: his ancestor, Milo Vincent, was seated at Swinford, in the county of Leicester, in the 10th Edw. II. anno. 1316. John Vincent, the great grandson of Milo, became resident at Bernack, in Northamptonshire; and his son, Richard, was seized both of Swinford and Bernack. The latter property was inherited by his son and heir, John Vincent, who was the lineal ancestor of David Vincent, Warden of the Mint, and Keeper of the Wardrobe to Henry the Eighth,* and whose grandson, Sir Francis Vincent, of Stoke

* That monarch bequeathed him £100 by his will, to which document he was a witness.—*Testamenta Vetusta*, p. 44.

Dabernon, in Surrey, was created a Baronet in 1620. Swinford became the property of Robert Vincent, the second son of the said Richard; from whom descended the Vincents of Fineden and Wellingburgh in Northamptonshire. William Vincent, of the latter place, the lineal descendant of Robert Vincent, died on the 21st May 1618, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John Mabbot, of Walgrave, merchant of the staple, three sons; Francis, Richard, and Augustine. Francis Vincent the eldest son, was seated at Weedon, in Northamptonshire, and by Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Langham of Gillesburgh in that county, left issue John who is said to have died in Barbadoes without children, and William who became an alderman of London, and was one of the commissioners sent to the

Hague in 1660, to escort over Charles the Second, on his return to this kingdom, upon which occasion he received the honor of knighthood. He died in 1661, having had by Rebecca, daughter, and at length heiress of Thomas Ferrers of Ashchurch in the county of Gloucester, and of London, merchant, who re-married Richard Chambers, alderman of London, and died in September 1671, many children, of whom William, Elizabeth, Ann, and Judith died before their father, and Charles, George, Rebecca who was executrix to her mother in 1671, Ann, and another Judith, who appears to have married, but nothing more is known of them. Richard Vincent, the second son of William Vincent and Elizabeth Mabbot, before mentioned, lived at Fineden, in Northamptonshire, and died in July 1637, leaving by Elizabeth, daughter of

the Rev. Francis Hodgkin of Earl's Barton in that county, seven children. 1. William, who married Rebecca daughter of —— Smith of Fineden, by whom he had Richard, ob. s. p., William, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Maria. 2nd. Francis, who was a captain in the service of Charles the First, and was slain at Harburgh, and who by Margaret, daughter of Thomas Wallis, had two children, William and Elizabeth. 3rd. Augustine, ob. s. p. 4. Richard, who died in Barbadoes without issue, and three daughters, Johanna, wife of ——— ———, Elizabeth, who married Edward Wallis, and another Johanna, who became the wife of Richard Ruffe.*

Augustine Vincent, the subject of this memoir, was the third son of the said William Vincent and Elizabeth

* Visitation of Northamptonshire.

Mabbot, and is supposed to have been born about the year 1584. The earliest certain information we possess respecting him is, that he was appointed to the office of Rouge Rose Pursuivant Extraordinary, by patent, dated 22d February 1615-6; and on the 22d of March following he was regularly invested in that office.

It would appear, however, from his own statement, which will hereafter be more fully alluded to, that he commenced those studies in which he obtained so much eminence, about the year 1599, as he speaks of his then entering "a novice in the world." At an early period of his life he held a situation in the Tower, but the exact date of his appointment to it has not been discovered. The Historian of the College of Arms*

* Noble, p. 240.

states that he was clerk to Sir John Borough, the keeper of the Records, Norroy and afterwards Garter King of Arms; and from the manner in which he is spoken of by Burton in his History of Leicestershire, there can be little doubt that he was afterwards Deputy keeper. His connexion with the Tower is however involved in obscurity; for not only is the date of his admission unknown, but it is also undetermined whether he held his office there until his death, or resigned it when he became a Herald. Indeed on this subject nothing is certain, but that he enjoyed an appointment in the Record Office of that Repository, and that it afforded him the opportunity, of which he so extensively availed himself, of making those invaluable collections which have secured for him a reputation, that will only be

forgotten when accident destroys the fruit of his labours, or some political convulsion renders them noxious to public taste or principles.

At the time when Vincent became a Pursuivant at Arms, the celebrated Camden was Clarenceux; but whether his acquaintance with that learned antiquary preceded his nomination to the office of Rouge Rose, or arose in consequence of it, has not been ascertained. From whatever cause it originated, it appears very soon to have ripened into respect and esteem on the part of the one, and to have produced from the other his patronage and friendship. The literary avocations, no less than the advanced age of Camden, rendered it extremely inconvenient to him to visit his province, and in 1618 he appointed Vincent his deputy, to visit the counties of North-

ampton and Rutland. This appointment excited the indignation of several members of the college, and Noble states that in 1619* Garter and Norroy considered that he had acted improperly, in nominating any deputy to execute that duty, though it would appear, from the subjoined letter from Clarenceux on the subject, that the chief grounds of complaint were that he had nominated two inferior officers as his deputies; but the truth probably was, that the envy which Camden's introduction into the Corporation created, and which will be more particularly noticed, though partially stifled, had never been extinguished; and that any opportunity was gladly seized upon to expose him to censure. In May, 1619, the two senior Kings of Arms, upon a rumour that Camden purposed

* p. 204.

constituting Vincent his deputy to visit the county of Lincoln, addressed a letter to him on the subject, dated on the 30th of that month, to which he replied as follows on the 3rd of June:---

G. CAMDENUS D.D., G. SEGARO AND R. SAN-GEORGIO.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL S.S.

You are misinformed that I have granted a commission to Mr. Vincent, for the visitation of Lincolnshire: it was never mentioned to me but once, and that incidentally. I neither know, neither have heard, that his proceedings have distasted the lords, or grieved the gentry in those parts: but I have heard him commended by divers for his good carriage and skill. Verily to Mr. Philipot I have granted a commission for Kent, induced thereunto by the desire and commendation of many knights,

your deputy lieutenants, and gentlemen of especial note in that county, under their hands which shall be produced. I remaining in this county this vacation, will be a supervisor of his visitation, which he hath already began. I hope you think it not befitting that I should offer deputations to any not desiring the same. I never denied any of their superiors that desired me; yea, my offers to some of them for Gloucestershire, Surrey, and Cambridgeshire, without capitulation of profit, have been refused. So God love my soul, as I have tendered the general good of the office, which they that drew the letter, if they will inwardly enter into themselves, I trust you will acknowledge, and in that resolution I will continue, desiring you not to impeach me in the execution of my place who never intermeddled with

yours, beseeching the Almighty to bless us all with the spirit of virtue and Christian charity.

June 3, 1619.*

This mild explanation did not however satisfy those to whom it was addressed; and they complained to the Earl Marshal, who wrote to Camden respecting Philipot on the 7th of the same month. To his lordship he defended himself in an able letter, dated on the 7th July 1619, and cited his patent as Clarenceux, by which instrument he was empowered to visit his province from time to time, as often as he should think necessary, "and to appoint his deputy or deputies, attorney or attornies." This communication evidently set the question at rest, as on the 15th July, in a letter to Mr. Wilson,

* Noble's College of Arms, p. 206.

the Earl Marshal's secretary, speaking of his having written to his lordship, he says "I doubt not but I have satisfied him;" he then thanks Wilson for his favour to his deputy Mr. Philipot, "whom in this employment I will supervise; and desire you rather to countenance him than to suffer any affront to be given to his Majesty's great seal."*

The allusion to Vincent in the preceding letter merits a slight notice; for according to the assertion of Segar and St. George, it would appear that whilst he was Camden's deputy, in his visitation of Northamptonshire and Rutlandshire in the year before, his conduct had been disapproved by the chief families in those counties; which circumstance was laid hold of by them as a sufficient objection to his being appointed to visit Lincolnshire. Their

* *Ibid.*

efforts to prejudice Camden against him were fruitless, for besides defending his character and skill in his answer to them, he joined him in a commission, the same year, with Sampson Lennard Blue Mantle, as his deputies, to visit the counties of Warwick and Leicester.

Vincent became a member of the College of Arms in 1621, having been constituted Rouge Croix Pursuivant by Patent dated at Westminster on the 29th of May in that year;* and on the 6th of the same month he was formally created to that office at Whitehall. In the following year he printed his well known work entitled "A Discoverie of Errours in the first Edition of the Catalogue of Nobility published by Raphe Brooke Yorke Herald 1619, and printed heerwith word for word, according to

* Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. xvii. p. 301.

that Edition, with a continuance of the successions, from 1619 untill this present yeare 1622: at the end whereof is annexed a Review of a later edition, by him stolne into the world 1621. By Augustine Vincent Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Armes. Pro captu lectoris, habent sua fata libelli. Terent. Maur. London: printed by William Jaggard dwelling in Barbican, and are there to be sold. 1622." The motives which gave birth to this production, and the circumstances attending it, form so important a feature in the life of its author that some observations on the subject are imperiously required.

Towards the end of the year 1594, Camden published the fourth edition of his celebrated *Britannia*; and about 1599, Ralph Brooke, York Herald, printed a small quarto called "A Dis-

coverie of certaine Errours published in print in the much commended *Britannia* 1594, very prejudiciall to the discentes and successions of the auncient Nobilitie of this Realme. By York Herault. Quam quisq. norit artem, in hac se exerceat;" and without any date or printer's name in the title page. In this tract he charged Camden with ignorance of Heraldry and Genealogy in terms which displayed the writer's arrogance and unfortunate temper in glaring colours, and which were clearly dictated by that envious spirit, which hopeless of attaining the excellence of another, does all in its power to detract from his fame. To these accusations Camden replied with considerable force and severity in the fifth edition of the *Britannia*, which appeared in 1600, though he wisely availed himself of his adversary's remarks

by correcting the pedigrees which it contained. In 1619 Brooke, still influenced by animosity to Camden, published "A Catalogue and succession of the Kings, Princes, Dukes, Marquesses, Earles, and Viscounts of this Realme of England, since the Norman Conquest to this present yeare 1619. Together with their armes, wives, and children, the times of their deaths and burials with many of their memorable actions. Collected by Raphe Brooke, Esquire, Yorke Herauld, discoveringe and reforming many errors committed, by men of other profession, and lately published in print, to the great wronging of the Nobility and prejudice of his Majestie's Officers of Armes, who are onely appointed and sworne to deal faithfully in these causes. Quam quisq. norit artem, in hac se exerceat. Printed by William Jaggard

and sold at his house in Barbican 1619;" In that volume he not only animadverted with his accustomed virulence upon Camden, but upon Milles and other writers; and in 1622 a second edition of this work appeared, the title of which was the same, excepting, after "Collected by Raphe Brooke Esquire Yorke Herauld," instead of the former words were the following "and by him inlarged with amendment of divers faults committed by the Printer in the time of the Author's sicknesse." The same motto was retained but no Printer's name was inserted. In an Address to the "Judicious reader" he says "This edition was enlarged with divers good notes and records omitted in the former impression, and amended also in several escapes and mistakings committed by the printer whilst his sickness absented him from the press at the

first publication and which had given his *envious detractors* occasion to carpe at his labours; and he concludes by desiring that if his *detractors* shall continue their *calumniations* the reader should be pleased to compare their experience; to observe his intent in writing and theirs in cavilling; and to conceive how much more painful it was to compile a laborious volume than to carpe at it."

Such was the state of the literary question between these individuals when Vincent entered the field as the champion of his venerable friend. It must be remembered that soon after Camden's reply to Brooke was published he is said to have prepared an answer to it, but that it was suppressed by authority, and did not appear until 1724 when the whole of the controversy was printed in one quarto volume. To judge however

from the article which Brooke prefixed to his M.S. it would seem that this statement is incorrect; for he there says that the greater part of it was intended to have been added to his *Discoverie* printed in 1599, but that his "house was entered, myself and my household disquieted by this learned man [Camden]'s means, and friends, before I had half done, in such sort that some few words were mis-set by the compositor in that which was finished, the rest was intercepted and I staid by commandment of authority to proceed." But not a word occurs of his having, as Noble asserts,* presented it in M.S. to King James on the 1st January 1620, or of that monarch's having on the 4th of the same month prohibited its publication; nor from the construction of the above passage does

* History of the College of Arms, p. 243.

it appear likely that "the commandment not to proceed" referred to so long a period after the publication of the *Discoverie* as twenty years. It is therefore extraordinary if Noble is correct in his relation, that Brooke should have passed it over in silence; whilst it is scarcely less singular that the account given of the affair in that address by Brooke, should not have been noticed by any writer on the subject.* A just opinion on the merits of the dispute, and especially of the part taken in it by

* Another conclusion to be drawn from the passage just cited is that the *Discoverie of Errors* in the *Britannia* was printed in Brooke's house. No printer's name appears to that tract or to the second edition of his *Catalogue* which, coupled with the account of the interruptions he experienced in the progress of the former, render it highly probable that they were both set up under his own roof.

Vincent cannot be formed without a a brief view of those transactions connected with the College of Arms at the period, that were likely to influence the feelings of its members.

About the latter part of the reign of Elizabeth, jealousy and discord held almost universal sway over the corporation of Heralds. The dissensions which consequently arose, were considerably increased in 1597 by the irregular appointments of Camden to the office of Richmond Herald on the 22d of October, and to that of Clarenceux on the following day; thus passing over the heads of twelve out of the thirteen persons who formed the College of Arms. The extraordinary merits of that learned writer justify, in the eyes of posterity, so unusual a promotion, and perhaps were considered to do so by the majority of his

contemporaries; but it cannot be expected that it should have been approved by those whom he supplanted. Of the various members of the office there was none who was so deeply hurt by this measure as Brooke, whose long services and abilities would have entitled him to advancement in his profession, had not his insufferable vanity and irritable and malicious temper rendered him totally unfit for the duties of a more elevated station. Envy, and hatred, thus combined to make Camden peculiarly offensive to him, and the strictures which, though emanating in those feelings, have nevertheless caused him in some measure to partake of that great man's celebrity, and which likewise brought Vincent into collision with him, will it is presumed render the following particulars of him acceptable.

Ralph Brooke, or more properly Brookesmouth, was born about the year 1553, and became free of the Painter-Stainers' company, to which trade he was bred, on the 3rd of September 1576. In 1580 he was appointed Rouge Croix Pursuivant, and on the 2nd of March 1592-3 was promoted to the office of York Herald. As an officer of Arms he was skilful in his profession, zealous, and intelligent, but his conduct was marked by an overweening opinion of his own merits, and a proportionate contempt for the abilities of others. To preposterous vanity was united an envious disposition, qualities that rendered him extremely mischievous from his restless activity of mind. This unhappy temper naturally embroiled him in eternal disputes with his brother officers, and to his machina-

tions those constant quarrels which disgraced the Corporation have been mainly attributed. No sooner had Camden become Clarenceux than his animosity was chiefly directed against him: but his venom flowed from too plentiful a source to be exhausted by one object, and disappointment and malignity so entirely possessed his mind that he eventually became a nuisance to his colleagues. He was twice suspended and imprisoned for his misconduct; and in 1620 a petition was presented against him and Cresswell, who was at that time Somerset Herald, as common disturbers of the whole body. An effort was made to remove him in October 1621, but without effect, and he continued in his office until the 15th October 1625, when he died, aged nearly seventy-three.

This was the character of the man

whom Vincent had the hardihood to expose, and some observations will be submitted on the motives which led to, as well as the manner in which he executed his purpose. It does not seem very likely that Brooke's reply to Camden's answer to his *Discoverie* should have fallen under Vincent's observation; hence in considering the subject that part of the controversy which had then been printed will alone be referred to.

Vincent's inducements for undertaking his work were, as he himself partly admits, gratitude and respect towards his patron Camden; a wish to humble a man by whose temper he and his friends were continually annoyed; and the hope of acquiring a permanent reputation for himself. To the first of these causes his detractors may add a view to his interest: but this is rendered

extremely improbable by the fact that Clarenceux was at that time above seventy one, and died in the following year. In examining the second motive, it seems unnecessary to say much, for even his enemies would not desire more than the admission that personal dislike of Brooke had an agency in producing his attack upon him. But whatever can be urged on this head against Vincent may be met by asking, whether he who attempts to destroy a wasp which with unremitting malignity inflicted

"his skin-deep stings to vex and irritate,"

upon himself and his colleagues, does not perform a public service? or whether he who was uniformly the slanderer of others, whose arrogance was only exceeded by his envy, and to whose vitiated appetite scandal and detraction were

favourite food, does not deserve the signal exposure and castigation which he received? Still more, it must be demanded whether he who was the unprovoked assailant of the reputation of one of the most learned men that have ever adorned this country, was not justly treated by an inquiry into his fitness for the task he had undertaken? Of Vincent's third motive it is not requisite to say a single word; for who can object to the attempt of an individual to gain an honourable fame? If however it be urged that Vincent endeavoured to build his own reputation out of the ruins into which he had thrown that of a brother officer, the answer is obvious,—that it was avowedly his chief object to shew the Asses Skin of his adversary; and to what extent he succeeded, or how far the provocation to do so was sufficient,

may be left to the decision of competent and impartial judges, without the least fear that their sentence will impair his reputation.

So much having been said on the motives in which Vincent's publication originated, the manner in which it was executed becomes a fair subject for discussion, if the length to which it would extend did not render it impracticable. Some remarks are however indispensable, but which will be entirely confined to the preliminary matter.

In the dedication to the Earl of Arundel, he states that he had been nearly three years in the completion of his task, so that he must have commenced it immediately after the appearance of the first edition of Brooke's *Catalogue*. He avows, as has before been pointed out, that his chief motive

was " to give Mr. York a true glass wherein to see himself, that abandoning those multiplying glasses which have made him believe that he is so many times more than he is, he may see himself to be *sicut unum e nobis*, a man as we are, subject to ignorance and error; and lastly that howsoever this common enemy have by his bold encounters with men far his betters, made himself dreadful to former times, yet (as Darius said of Alexander to his army, *Hoc omne quod timetis, unum animal est*) his admirers may know that this great Monster-tamer is but *unum animal*, and that there be that can discover, and dare encounter him and tell him he errs." " The men far his betters" clearly referred to Camden; and further on he expressly mentions him and Milles as having been the object of Brooke's animadversions. The dedi-

cation is followed by an address "to Ralphe Brooke Yorke Herald" in which he inflicts a chastisement no less distinguished by its cutting severity than by the elegance of its style and classical allusions.

He commences by assuring him that if there be any that envy his worth so much as to detract from his due he was not of the number; he admits that the fifty years practice upon which Brooke so highly prided himself ought to have given him experience, and he does not deny that "he had used good and commendable pains; having with his own hand gathered much honey out of other men's hives." He concedes that his book would have been valuable to the student had its author not admired it too much himself, and then with peculiar force comments upon his insufferable vanity.

"May not," he says, "M. York be in the first rank, and give other men leave to be in the third or fourth? Must he (like the slave that stood in the market with Æsop to be sold) know all and leave nothing for poor Æsop to know? Must all else be upstarts, novices, intruders and mountebanks?* While Apelles lived, was there but one painter in all Greece? Or because Demosthenes bare away the prize of oratory, were all the rest no better than mountebanks? It is certain England hath but one York, but must therefore all the rest of the Heralds give over their places? *Miramur summa,* saith Tully, *sed tamen inferiora probamus,* though eminent men

* Brooke had used these expressions, and apparently with reference to Camden, in his *Catalogue of Nobility.*

are to be admired, yet men of a lower form must not be cast away. There be degrees in all knowledges, and it were hard to conclude, that because York knows more, therefore Somerset knows nothing." Vincent proceeds to observe that "when he first entered a novice in the world he found it possessed of a strange admiration of Brooke; that his name was a terror to men of his own profession," and that he naturally became impressed with the same opinion. He next notices his *Discoverie of Errors* in Camden's *Britannia*, which he says "was artificially penned and like a scholar," but satirically adds, "I know the Doctor's name that penned it." The allusion to Brooke's triumphant career in the College of Arms, which, to some it may be necessary to observe is situated very near to St. Paul's, is excessively

happy: "I then began to observe him abroad, saw him, though loved of few, yet feared of all; heard him sing *Magnificat* of himself in Paul's and all the walk bear the quire to him." "In a word," he continues, "others admired him, I adored him. This opinion, bred in me an infinite desire to be his disciple, but that again seemed too high an ambition: the next point then was, seeing I might not have that beatitude to enjoy his presence *in specie*, yet to have the fruition of him *in speculo* in his works. I presently got into my hands his *Discoverie* against M. Camden; came to it with fear and trembling, as one that comes to pull a lock from a lion's mane, read him with reverence, and began to find some pretty relise in him, only methought his style was somewhat tart, but that I guessed might proceed out of age. But entering

further and seeing him to grow from vinegar to gall and from gall to venom* against so renowned and reverend a man, and the same mixt with pride, arrogancy, and admiration of himself, this began a little to shake my former conceit." He then became he says emboldened, and began to examine his statements by comparing his work with the *Britannia*, to satisfy himself "whether Master Camden were so black as he had painted him or not."†

* The copy of Vincent's work from which this and the following extracts were taken appears once to have belonged to a friend of Brooke's, for a few M.S. marginal notes are inserted, which from the orthography must have been written about the time of its publication. As they are rather amusing they are here given. Opposite to the words "from vinegar to gall and from gall to venom" is "as thou doest in this booke."

† "Thou hast seene a splintre in his eye, and not ----- y^e^ bathe in thy own." *Ibid.*

He discovered, he informs us, that if Camden had erred he did so with authority, but that for York he saw "no proofs but Pythagorian proof: instead of *scriptum est, ipse dixit,* no record, no antiquity, but his own antiquity of forty years practice." "Besides I noted in him," he adds, "not only *Animum contradicendi,* a spirit of contradiction, but *studium calumniandi,** a wilful humour of mistaking, like Hercules, in a play, that made monsters of straw for himself to subdue, judiciously perverting and misconstruing what had a true and a right understanding; and in further process discovered in him by the books I searched a great deal of ignorance and insufficiency. Then I clearly found mine error, *Tu ne ille Æneas?* Is this M. York? Are these the fruits of *forty years study?* I

* "Just as thyselfe doest in this booke." *Ibid.*

then damned my opinion and hated myself for it, and that many-headed beast from whom I had received it; taking a document thereby, never again to build my judgment, either in good or bad part, upon the vulgar who set up shadows for Saints, and adore wooden images which in their true worth were fitter to be made whipping-posts, and blast with their breath the truly virtuous and noble, of whom the world is unworthy."

"Thus Mr. York" Vincent continues "have I shrived myself to you," and then assures him that neither envy or emulation* drew him into this opposition but his zeal for truth, Brooke's intolerable arrogance, and his detraction of the best and worthiest of men, as his

* "Nothing else, it may be seen by thy language." *Ibid.*

"tongue glided over no man's name but that it left a slime behind it."

In York's Epistle to the Reader in the second edition of his *Catalogue*, he observed that he was much indebted to collections "of the principall Heralds deceased;" and Vincent's remark upon this passage is excessively shrewd and severe. "The just disdain which burnt within me, to see a fellow blown up by a popular applause, and almost deified amongst silly believers, as the store-house of knowledge, whom I knew to be no better than the tomb of Semiramis, glorious without and promising by the inscription great treasure within; whereas Darius, opening it, found his expectations mocked with the sight of a brainless skull and the reliques of dead carcasses." "But admit," he proceeds, "envy had spurred me on to this work, doth that

prove that what you writ was true?— *Num, quia ego claudas, tu recte incedis?* Close with me in this point: is that true or no what I have written in discovering of your falsehoods? If it be not, you are allowed your traverse: if it be true that I say, what difference or choice is there of the person, whether envy or detraction, or the devil himself speak it; truth being ever the same through what mouth or from what mind soever it pass. In matters of charity it is true we look not what, but with what mind it is given: but in a verdict of truth it is not to be regarded with what mind, but what is spoken." To Brooke's assertion that there were no records to make good what he stated, he asks in a tone of triumph "Is not this a strange impudency, himself to deliver nothing upon record, and I nothing without (as

the margin shews); and yet to tell us to our faces that we have no records to warrant what we say, as implying that no man had but himself. If he have such records why doth he not produce them in their turns? Why doth he not lay them down upon the margin;" and to his adversary's vaunt that his library was better furnished than the Office of Arms, Vincent tauntingly inquires "if it be better filled with authentic records than the office at the Tower; or because his library contained all the Fathers in Greek, did it follow that he was a Doctor in Divinity?" He next notices the fact so frequently urged by Brooke of his having had fifty years experience, and tells him "experience cannot make you wise, experience cannot make you skilful in records unless you came where they were (which is not commonly in

Painter's shops*) and come fitly prepared and qualified by your breeding to understand the language they speak." "Whatsoever my experience be, sure I am the records I quote have experience; compare yours with theirs: they have years, measure theirs with your own, and then tell me of your fifty years' practice and study. *Misera est senectus*, saith Tully, *quæ se oratione defendit*. I pity that old man that is driven to plead age or beg reputation from his years. He that boasted at Athens of the great leap he leapt at Rhodes, was bidden to imagine that was Rhodes, and to do the like there. If your practice and experience be such as you boast of, let it appear in your work; that is Rhodes; that is the field to shew it in. Otherwise these vaunts

* Vincent here alluded to Brooke's original profession: see p. 30.

tend but to make me sin in vain glory: for if I by my experience am able at these years to controul your fifty years practice, what may I hope of myself, when I come to your experience?"

On Brooke's excuse for the errors in the first edition of his Catalogue which has already been noticed, Vincent justly observes "Was there ever heard a more miserable refuge? As if untruths in the history or falsifications in the chronology either of creations which may breed bitter contention betwixt great persons for precedency or for deaths, or the like material errors which I (his *envious detractor*) only stoop at, were the Printer's negligencies, and not his own gross ignorance. But for that point I will turn him over to the Printer;" and accordingly a long article is inserted professing to have been addressed by the

printer to Brooke in reply to the charge of carelessness, which he had so publicly brought against him, and which, as might be expected, is rendered the vehicle of another castigation. However inferior in force and style to that to which Vincent affixed his name, it gives room for observation; for there are some circumstances which favor the conclusion that, to a certain extent, it actually was the printer's defence of himself, instead of being, what it is generally considered, another channel for the expression of Vincent's own sentiments. The printer of the first edition of Brooke's *Catalogue* was William Jaggard of Barbican, but the second impression is without any printer's name, and the whole of the engravings and ornaments were totally different from those used in the first edition; whilst we find that Vincent

employed Jaggard to print his *Discoverie of Errors*. It may consequently be inferred that Jaggard and Brooke had really quarrelled, and that he had become the ally of Vincent, who of course readily allowed him to vent his spleen against Brooke in his work, because his refutation of the charges brought against his press was essential for two reasons—the one that he was better able to expose whatever errors had existed in Brooke's manuscript; and the other, that though Vincent must necessarily have alluded to the manner in which Brooke endeavoured to explain the misstatements in the first edition of his *Catalogue*, he could not have exactly known how far the excuse was well or ill founded.

The materials then for "the Printer's Address" were, it is most probable, furnished by Jaggard, but it was apparently

written by Vincent. In that article the accusation against Brooke, that he had employed some other pen in his works than his own is repeated, and the compositors are mentioned as offering to prove that every mistake which he imputes to them was not only to be found in his copy, but that had they literally followed it, by "allowing him to print his own English," "he would have made his reader as good sport in his Catalogue as ever Tarleton did his audience in a Clown's part."

The copious extracts which have been made from Vincent's address to his adversary, clearly display the literary ability and classical attainments of the writer, and it was chiefly with that object that they have been here introduced; though as they present much information about a quarrel of which every antiquary has

heard, their insertion cannot be thought misplaced. Before concluding the subject some comments will be submitted on the general features of the dispute the conduct of the disputants.

That victory declared herself on the side of Vincent in the controversy is unquestionable; and as the cause of his entering the arena was laudable, success was on this occasion the attendant of merit. Nor does it admit of a doubt that he was as superior to Brooke in temper and manners as in education and ability. As the defender of one of the most distinguished literary men of the time, when age and infirmities had nearly reduced him to the state of the dead lion of Æsop, his cause was as popular in the estimation of his contemporaries as of posterity; whilst his accurate statements and profound re-

search have rendered his work one of the most valuable publications on the subject to which it relates, that have ever appeared. These circumstances have combined to render Vincent a favourite with his readers, and it is perhaps doubtful, however unamiable Brooke really was, whether he has not been too severely condemned. It must not be forgotten that Vincent from his situation in the Tower possessed incalculable advantages over his adversary, and if Brooke's volume had not displayed such disgusting arrogance and self-sufficiency, the errors which it contained might have been excused; whilst, if he had not been the assailant of another, his defeat and disgrace would have excited our sympathy. Even Poetic Justice is however satisfied by the issue of the contention; for who can either pity or lament the prostration of one whose

morbid and jealous disposition has obtained for him the emphatic appellation of "a firebrand?" To prove the great popularity which Vincent enjoyed among his colleagues, and the dislike entertained of Brooke, it is sufficient to cite the complimentary addresses from his brother officers which are prefixed to his publication. Of the whole corporation only five omitted the opportunity of recording their sentiments of his merits, and their approval of the motives which induced him to undertake the work: these were Camden, Clarenceux; Brooke; Penson, Lancaster; Treswell, Somerset; and Holland, Portcullis. Camden was probably restrained from doing so by feelings of delicacy, he being so deeply interested in the question. Brooke of course could not compliment the hand which was chastising him; Cresswell was,

as has been before said, almost as much disliked as Brooke, and was probably his friend; but whether Penson and Holland* did not address him from regard to his opponent, from a desire to remain neutral, or from any other cause, does not appear. The great majority in favour of Vincent however speaks loudly in his favor, and it is obvious that his attempt to mortify Brooke met with general approbation. The addresses alluded to were from Sir William Segar, Garter; Sir Richard St. George, Norroy; Thompson, Windsor; Henry St. George, Richmond; Chitting, Chester; Philipot, Rouge

* From a letter which will be introduced in a subsequent page, it appears that Holland was the protegé of Camden; hence his silence on this occasion might have arisen from an unwillingness to give an opinion on the subject, for he could not have been deemed an impartial Judge.

Dragon; and Lennard, Blue-Mantle. John Bradshaw, who was then Rouge Rose Pursuivant Extraordinary, and afterwards Rouge Croix and Windsor Herald, also added his homage to Vincent's talents; and three individuals, out of the College of Arms, likewise publicly applauded his labours, namely, Richard Brathwait, St. Clyve, and above all the learned Selden, whose praise was really valuable. All of these addresses were either in Latin or English verse with the exception of those from Sir Richard St. George, Henry St. George, and Mr. Selden, whose letter was subsequently published among his own works.

In a recent volume,* for the useful information in which every antiquary is much indebted, a motive is assigned to those members of the College of Arms

* Moules' *Bibliotheca Heraldica*, p. 92.

who have had occasion to advert to Brooke in their publications, for the unqualified manner in which they have condemned his conduct; but as the writer could not possibly be sure of the justiee of his opinion, it had much better have been suppressed. He informs us, that sensible of the injury done to the College by the want of public confidence in genealogists, which was engendered by the controversy between Camden, Brooke, and Vincent, and which has never entirely subsided, "successive members of the Heraldic body who have mentioned the dispute have constantly adhered to the most powerful of the opponents, and have vilified the character of Brooke with opprobrious and disgusting charges." That every writer who has spoken of the affair has censured Brooke in strong

terms is not denied, but it is confidently asked, do not arrogance, envy, and malice deserve reprehension? or was it to be expected that those whose conduct is thus impeached were to conceal their sentiments because they belonged to the profession which that person had disgraced, and, according to the writer's own statement, which he had tended to injure? Their official appointments rendered them more competent to judge of the quarrel, because their pursuits enabled them justly to appreciate the abilities of the disputants; and for what reason were they to refrain from expressing the indignation which they felt on the subject? It requires a thorough knowledge of mankind, to explain the secret springs of human actions, for if the imputations be universally deemed illiberal and unjust,

the meditated infliction, like the axe in the hand of an inexperienced executioner, instead of hurting his victim, falls but to lacerate him who wields it.

Nothing can be more remote from the intention of the present biographer of Vincent than to exalt him above his real merits, or to depreciate, much less to vilify, Brooke. In the preceding pages but one fact has been urged in favor of Brooke's attack upon Camden; but this cannot excuse, though it may palliate, the transaction, for even the best regulated minds must be excited by a stranger being placed over their heads in their profession: nor have the asperities in which Vincent indulged been sufficiently condemned. "Even-handed justice" therefore demands a few words on the subject, especially as an impartial examination of Brooke's statements has dis-

covered a far better apology for him than has been produced by an advocate, who not content with such facts as are extant on the point, even pries into the heart for the real motives of those who have censured him. Literary courtesy at the present day generally requires that on discovering misstatements in a work of merit, a letter should be addressed to the author pointing out his errors, but Polemics and Medicine are nearly the only subjects which now produce a regular controversy. Genealogy gives room for much angry feeling, because upon the production of evidence the truth or fallacy of assertions may be demonstrated, and few tempers will bear being discovered in error. Brooke's disposition to shew Camden's ignorance of subjects, upon which the former prided himself, is not extraordinary, because he thereby

established his unfitness for the situation in which he had been supplanted by him, and the more public that exposure was, of course the greater became his triumph. If then when he ascertained the erroneous passages in the *Britannia*, he had exercised the literary courtesy alluded to, by informing Camden of their existence, and that intimation had been received with contumely, there would have been cause for his subsequent publication of them, though not for the personal invective with which they were accompanied. This conduct however Brooke expressly informs us, in his address "to the Gentle and Learned Reader," prefixed to his reply to Camden's answer to his *Discoverie*, he adopted by *twice* offering his remarks to Camden, and that they were both times rejected, a circumstance which forms so material

a feature in the transaction, that it is but candid to give Brooke's own words. Alluding to those errors, he says,

"For remedie of which inconveniencies I was bould first to move others of good credite and learninge friendly to advertice this learned man Mr. Camden of the faultie passages in his booke touching Herauldry, to whom his answere was that he could not correct any of them, for discrediting his whole worke: as though mending the sores should have maymed the bodye. Secondly in private when I harde his addressment to a fift impression I myself dealt with hym for the amendment of some slippes in his *Britannia* of the same kynd promising him the use of my own observations and collections: which as profered wares, fastidiously he rejected not accompting them worthy his

thankes or acceptation contrarie to the advice of the sober learned who are content to heare the conceipte of a mean freind sometymes and respect the offer although but a blynde man should poynte out the way. The rat is not so contemptible but shee may helpe the lyon at a pinch out of those netts wherein his strength is hampered: and the words of an inferior may often carry matter in them to admonish his superior of some important consideration. And surely of what accompte soever I might have seemed to this learned man, yet in regarde of my profession and courteous offer (I being an auncient officer of Armes and he then but a schoole master) might well have vouchsaffed the perusall of my notes."

If this statement were true it would certainly give a very different complexion

to the dispute, but there are unfortunately for the writer, two or three facts which render its veracity very problematical. Neither in his address to Camden prefixed to the first edition of his *Discoverie* nor in any other part of that publication is the slightest allusion to the transaction to be found; and the only notice of it throughout the *second Discovery* is in the address to "The Gentle and Learned Reader." It is extremely unlikely if such an offer was really made by Brooke, that he should not have spoken of it in the first edition; for at the same time that it formed an excellent apology for publishing those errors which he had refused to correct, it must have tended to expose the obstinacy, if not the carelessness of Camden, in neglecting to improve his work. We have seen that when Brooke considered

that he possessed a strong argument he did not fail to reiterate it until it became almost ridiculous; hence it is inconsistent with his usual practice to suppose that he would have neglected to state in the first impression of the *Discoverie*, or repeatedly to urge in the second edition, a fact which whilst it almost justified himself, was a severe censure upon his adversary. But more than all, it is certain that in the edition of the *Britannia* which immediately followed the appearance of Brooke's *Discoverie*, though the author lashes his detractor with unsparing severity and displays the most sovereign contempt for him, he nevertheless availed himself of his remarks, by correcting many of the errors which Brooke had pointed out. This circumstance speaks very strongly against his assertion that Camden had refused to peruse them when privately

offered for his use; for if pride or vanity prevented him from availing himself of the information when tendered in kindness, would not the same feelings have induced him to scorn to profit by them when given to the world solely with the view of shewing his ignorance? In all probability the facts of the case are, that when Brooke discovered the opinion of society of his attack upon a man who was so justly esteemed for his erudition, he found it necessary to excuse both what he had done, and what he meditated doing against him, by the assertion that his corrections had been first privately submitted to Camden, but that they were rudely rejected.

Vincent's greatest admirers cannot but lament that he should have employed similar weapons in his attack on Brooke, to those which that person had used

against Camden. His address to his opponent has been already commented upon, and though redeemed in a great measure by the keen satire which it contains, an attentive reader will there perceive the germs of a rancorous hatred which grew to full maturity in the subsequent epistle attributed to the Printer. That feeling displays itself in the manner in which the paragraphs in the *Catalogue*, that were in any degree displeasing to the Earl of Arundel, are brought forward, who being at that time Earl Marshal, had the power to facilitate or impede Brooke's advancement in his profession. Nor can the numerous personal and offensive passages in Vincent's commentaries be read without regret; for they by no means add weight to his remarks, and serve only to exhibit a deficiency in that respect which he owed to himself, how-

ever little it might have been merited by his adversary. Whilst thus admitting that there is much to condemn in the general tone of Vincent's observations, it must not be forgotten that the language of bitter controversy in the early part of the seventeenth century seldom exhibited that decorum which, in most cases, now characterizes public discussion. Though a common mistake, nothing can be more absurd than to form our opinion of persons or transactions of former times by the standard of propriety which regulates society at the present. If the conduct of an individual was strictly correct in the estimation of his contemporaries, of which posterity only can judge by the information which they possess of the general habits of the period, we are in justice bound to join in that decision; and adopting this cri-

terion, perhaps the language of the dispute between Brooke and Camden, and between Vincent and Brooke would not require any particular comment. But the motives of human action are the same in all ages; and those by which these individuals were actuated become therefore the proper object of inquiry, and are the sole consideration by which we ought to be influenced in pronouncing judgment upon them. If then we are correct in ascribing to Brooke equally upon the opinion of his colleagues and of writers who were nearly contemporary with him,* and upon a

* Anthony Wood, who wrote about fifty years after the death of Vincent, speaking, in his life of Camden, of Brooke's *Discoverie of Errors*, says, "In which book the said Brookesmouth endeavours to make the world believe that Cambden composed his *Britannia* mostly from the Collectanea of John

careful review of the whole affair, envy, jealousy, and malice; and to Vincent those which he claimed for himself, and which are not only confirmed by that examination, but have never been impeached, there can be no difficulty in deciding on their respective characters.

The controversies of literary men, however disgraceful to themselves, are generally beneficial to the public. Rivalry is a powerful stimulus to exertion; and the certainty that every statement will be rigidly examined is a security that they will not be made without suf-

Leland without any acknowledgment, and at the end of the said *Discoverie* adds a little thing written by Leland called A New Year's Gift given of him to King Henry the eighth &c. Whereupon came out soon after against that busy and envious person (for so he was by his society accounted) a vindication or reply written by Camden in Latin" &c.—*Bliss's Wood's Athen. Oxon. vol.* II. p. 345.

ficient authority. To the unfortunate dissentions between Camden and Brooke we are mainly indebted for those works which are the subject of these remarks; and this discussion will be closed with the expression of that unfeigned regret which every man of a liberal mind must feel, whenever personal animosities are allowed to embitter the studies of men of talents and learning. The pursuits of literature, and especially of that class which has for its object the examination of subjects connected with English History or Antiquities, need not the presence of the evil passions of our nature to add to the pains of that constant and laborious research by which it is necessarily attended, and in reward of which, no hope either of profit, or patronage, or fame, can be entertained. Years of the most persevering industry in these investiga-

tions may possibly procure reputation for their author amongst the few who understand their value; but no other advantage exists · and a life spent in these occupations is often terminated in comparative indigence and obscurity. On the other hand, he who can amuse the world with Tales and Romances is generally remunerated by wealth and popular applause; and in a recent instance, by honorable marks of his Sovereign's favor. Yet history is ranked in the highest department of literature, and prose works of imagination in the lowest. But by whom? By those who, with all this profession of respect for the labours of an historian, are contented to receive their historical facts from Hume or Smollett, and their knowledge of the manners of our ancestors from Shakspeare, or the novels of the "Author of Waverley."

On the 19th of November 1623, Vincent lost his patron and friend William Camden; and in May in the following year, Thompson, Windsor Herald, died, when Vincent was, by Patent dated on the 5th of June 1624,* appointed to succeed him; and on the 29th of the same month he was created to that situation at Arundel House. In the dedication of his *Discoverie of Errors* to the Earl of Arundel, he expressed his intention to publish THE BARONAGE OF ENGLAND, and the Lives of all the Knights of the Garter. The following letter to Sir Robert Cotton, which is the only one from him in the British Museum, shews that he was zealously engaged on the BARONAGE, in which, and probably also in his *Discoverie of Errors*, he seems to have been assisted by that

* *Fœdera* vol. xvii. p. 602.

distinguished Antiquary. It is without date, but it must have been written between November 1623, when Camden died, and January 1626, the year of Vincent's decease.

TO SIR ROBERT COTTON.

S^R^

I have by my man sent you Milles* and the two bookes of Talbot's collections which I had last: for which and all other your Noble favours to me I must ever acknowledge myselfe still bound. Yong Holland† that once served

* *The Catalogue of Honor or Treasury of the Nobility*, folio 1610. By Thomas Milles, the nephew of that celebrated Herald, Robert Glover, from whose collections that work was formed. It would appear from a subsequent passage in this letter that some copies were struck off on large paper.

† Apparently Philip Holland who was appointed

Mr. Camden telles me his Maister had another Milles of large paper with notes which if it be in your handes I beseech yo^{u} that I may borrow it: as I remember the last but one that I was with you you told me of some collections of Thinnes* that you had in point of Baronage; yf you can readily find them I pray you to impart them to me or any thing els that may further me in it. Now I find the further I go in that labour the further I am to seeke, yet shall it not discourage me if I may intreat yo^{r} favour therein to furnish me (as hitherto

Rouge Rose Pursuivant Extraordinary on the 22nd April 1602, and Portcullis on the 23rd February 1619. He died about 1625.

* Francis Thynne who became Lancaster Herald in 1602 and died in 1608. Some of his Collections are in the British Museum.—*See Noble's College of Arms*, pp. 213, 214.

you have done) with your good Helpes. Thus loth any further to trouble you at this time I rest

Your servant,
AUG. VINCENT.*

I pray you lend me your booke of burialls in the Minories,† that was Mr. Camden's.

Although the only work published by Vincent was the *Discoverie of Errors*, his Collections were as extensive as they are valuable; and had he been allowed a longer period of existence, there can be no doubt that the world would have been still further indebted to his labours. Independently however of his published volume, and the MSS alluded to, we have

* Cottonian MSS. Julius C. iii. f. 152[b]. *Original.*
† See Harl. MSS. 544, f. 43, and 6,033, f. 55.

proof of the important assistance which he rendered to contemporary antiquaries; and it is not too much to assert that scarcely a volume of any merit connected with genealogy has since appeared without the author having derived assistance from his Collections. Burton in his History of Leicestershire thus expresses his acknowledgments; from which we also learn that Vincent contemplated publishing a HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, his native county, for which he had gathered considerable materials. After mentioning several others by whom he had been obliged, he says "as also of that expert genealogist, my good friend and kinsman M. Augustine Vincent, by his place Rouge Croix Officer at Armes, who very kindly from the Tower hath imparted to me many worthy notes elsewhere not to be had or found,

whose labours also in this kinde for the Countie of Northampton ere long will come to light."

Weever in the Epistle to the Reader prefixed to his *Ancient Funeral Monuments* not only admits the obligations he was under to him, but frankly acknowledges that but for his encouragement, that curious work would never have been completed. He observes "I was altogether discouraged to procede further in this my laborious and expencefull enterprize untill I came casually into the acquaintance of my dear deceased friend Augustine Vincent Esq^re^ Windsor Herald and Keeper of the Records in the Tower who perswaded me to go forward as I had begun, and withall gave me many Church Collections with divers memorable notes and copies of records gathered by himselfe and others; and by

his meanes I had free accesse to the Herald's Office to write out such antiquities as I could there finde for my purpose." In another place speaking of him among the Heralds created in the reign of James the First, he says "of whom I have spoken elsewhere and whose losse I doe still lament. He left to future posterity a booke which he called a discovery of errors published by Raph Brooke Yorke Herald."*

The obligations which succeeding writers owe to Vincent do not always appear, because their thanks are properly addressed to the individual member, by whose kindness access was given them to the Archives of the College of Arms, where all his MSS. are preserved. But the information has in fact been most commonly derived from his researches;

* p. 677.

for if the point sought related to any question of Peerage or of record excepting the Visitations or modern entries, Vincent's Collections are generally the first which are consulted; and rare indeed are the occasions when they are opened in vain. Thus then the merits of Heraldic Collectors are as unobtrusive as they are permanent, for from their nature it is impossible that they can be sufficiently appreciated by the public at large. This feeble sketch of one of the most able and indefatigable Officers of Arms that have ever been created, cannot add to the high opinion entertained of his professional talent, his varied information, and profound research, by those who are acquainted with the solid foundations which support his fame; but it may possibly increase the number of his admirers, by extending a knowledge

of his extraordinary merits. For who can reflect that, besides his published work which alone displays very great industry and skill, he compiled above two hundred and thirty volumes of pedigrees, or extracts from records, illustrative of subjects connected with his profession, though he was removed to another world before he had completed his forty-fifth year, and withhold from him his respect and admiration.

Vincent enjoyed his office of Windsor less than two years, as he died on the 11th January 1625-6; and on the 14th of the same month, he was buried at St. Bennett's Paul's Wharf, the Register of which Parish contains the following entry of his interment,

"Mr. Augustine Vincent Harrold buryed 14 January 1625"*

* 1625-6.

No monument or inscription marks the ground which encloses his remains—a circumstance which naturally excites surprise: for even if the affection of his kindred was too cold to erect such a memorial of his worth, it surely ought to have been raised by the members of that profession to which he was so bright an ornament, and who to this hour derive important benefit from his labours. He married on the 30th June 1614, Elizabeth third daughter of Vincent Primount of Canterbury, and previously of Bivill la Baignard in Normandy, who was probably a Protestant Refugee. By her, who remarried before November 1630, Eusebius Catesby, of Castor in Northamptonshire, and died on the 6th of August 1667, he had two children; Elizabeth, born on the 13th July 1615, but died on the 18th January following, and

John, who was born on the 13th August 1618.

John Vincent, the only child that survived of Augustine Vincent, though but eight years of age at his father's death, appears to have inherited with his parent's MSS. the disposition and ability to make use of them. Of his life but very little is known; and even that little has, it is presumed, been misrepresented. Certain it is, however, that though he was never an Officer of Arms, his studies were almost exclusively directed to those pursuits for which his father was so distinguished. To these occupations his mind probably became first directed by the invaluable materials of which he was possessed, and which he methodized and arranged. At what time he adopted the resolution of completing the "Baronage of England,"

which his father had commenced we are not informed; and all which is known of his researches for his *Heroologia Anglica*, the only part of that work which he finished, is contained in the following observation of Anthony Wood.

"Augustin Vincent, sometimes Windsor Herald and Clerk of the Records in the Tower of London, had laid a foundation of a Baronage of England, but he dying before it was finished, it was taken in hand and continued by his son John Vincent, who intituled it '*Heroologia Anglica*; or a Genealogical History of the Succession and Creation of all our Princes, Dukes, Earls, and Viscounts, since the Norman Conquest to this day.' This I have seen in a thick folio manuscript, (for 'tis not yet published) containing many quotations from the records in the Tower of London, but 'tis a very

slight and trite thing in comparison of that of Sir W. Dugdale's."*

The annexed letter, from John Vincent, which has been copied from the original in the Bodleian library,† relates to his investigations for a continuation of the volume just mentioned, and hence it is deserving of insertion. His father of whom he speaks was either Roger Prichard his wife's father, or Eusebius Catesby who had married his mother, but it is most likely it was the former. It does not appear to whom this letter was addressed, but most probably to Dodsworth, though its contents admit of the inference that it was to his colleague in his labours on his intended "Baronage," and who evidently resided in London.

* Bliss's *Fasti Oxonienses*, vol. II. p. 26.

† In Dodsworth's MS. vol. 74, f. 60.

S^R.

With much content I received your letters, but by one occasion uppon y^e necke of another I have bin so deterred, y^t I neither y^n coulde nor now can give you y^t full ansswere to eache of yours y^t I intend shortly. And briefely thus, for y^e History of Stanlow parke it is longe and if you can forbear it let it alone till our meetinge, otherwise you shall not want my paynes in the transcribinge with convenient expedicōn: y^n for confirmacōn of Margery de Cressy to be daūr to Willm de Chenneto who was Grandfather to Vitalis Engaine I have sent you y^e P'cita of 9^o H. 3. faythfully transcribed and examined: and next to assure you y^t y^e s^d Vital D'Engaine was next heir to y^e Honor of Montgomery w^ch he claymed as sonne of Richard D'Engaine sonne of Margery daūr of

Richard fitz Urse who mar'd Mauld daūr of Baldwin Bollers to whom K. H. 1 after the banishment of Rob^{t} de Montgomery gave y^{t} Honor with Sibill de Faleyse his neice, I have sent you an abrevation of y^{e} P'cita de Banco a^{o} 9 H. 3. For my cominge to London when all things are in readinesse for y^{e} Baronage, I shall readyly undertake y^{e} iourney, but if buisines be not well followed for y^{t} purpose in y^{e} meane tyme wee shall buckle to uppon greate disadvantages; therefore I am now reducinge my matterialls into forme & p'fectinge my sūmons to Parliam^{t} & reduced y^{e} ancient Baronies to Alphabet, & Barons I have alphabetically set downe with theire severall summons in eache King's Raigne, & by this manner I shall be able to satisfie myselfe whose Barony y^{t} was, or who was Lord of that Barony, & so make searche accordingly; & for the other I

am able to tell you from y^e 49 of H. 3. when eache Baron was first sumoned, & how often in eache King's raigne, and how they discontinued, & where they ended, or where theire heires generall (as often tymes it hapned) were summoned in theire rights. Then the forme y^t I intend to reduce all this to will be to reduce it to King's raignes omittinge Dukes Marquesses Earles and Vicounts because I have spoken of them elsewhere.* The discent of Chennetto, Cosnetto, or Querceto, I would desire y^t you woulde send me what you have warrantably of it, with y^t of Rob^t Fitz Walter founder of Horsham & the discent of Cressy, for these beinge all short will not take up much tyme or paper; y^t of Quercetto I can shew you somethinge of concernement out of y^e Booke Noteley in Bucks. For

* In his *Heroologia Anglica*. See p. 84, ante.

Robt Fitz Walter I have seen ye booke of Sebton wch you say delivers it falsely & for yt of Cressy I can speake somethinge out of ye recorde, therefore pray send me what you have authentick to yt purpose & shall requite you with the like. I have herewith sent you a note of certaine Baronies taken x Inquisicoi'bus antiquis t'pe E. 1. & ante yt I woulde desire you woulde as I shall searche well after, as whose they were, & of what lands they consisted and what counties some of ym yt I have not mentioned were scituate & when they ceased. One thinge more I shall desire & yt is yt you woulde be pleased to send me downe by the carrier ye booke of ye King's Meditations & I shall uppon the receipt thereof not only retourne inumerable thankes for these favours but the full price thereof. So with my father's best respects & owne unto you prayinge to

God to give us good successe in our undertakings I shall take leave as befitteth

Your most affectionate freinde
Jo. VINCENT.

Uffington Marche ye 27
ao. 1649.

The *Heroologia Anglica* is now in the Bodleian Library among Anthony Wood's MSS.* It consists of a folio volume of above nine hundred pages, fairly written as if for the press; and there is in the same collection another MS.† entitled "*Equites Anglicani*, or a Catalogue of all the several degrees of Knighthood here in England (except that of St.

* No. 4, or in the *Catologi Librorum Manuscriptorum Angliæ et Hiberniæ*, No. 8467.

† No. 18, or in the General Catalogue No. 8480.

George) whether Banneretts, Baronets, of the Bath, or Batchelors, from the time of Edward III. until the end of the reign of King Charles I. collected by John Vincent."

Of the merits of those MSS. the author of this Memoir has not had sufficient opportunity to form an opinion, but no impression against their value must be entertained from their being still unpublished; for what inducement exists for any one to risk the expence of printing even the most important MS. on such subjects which ever has, or ever could be written? The Historian of the College of Arms is, it is believed, the only writer who has attempted to give an account of the character of John Vincent, but it does not appear from what authority he derived all the subjoined unfavourable particulars respecting him.

"John Vincent was a sensible man, a good genealogist, herald, and antiquary; but so ill an economist and so fond of liquor that he frequently pawned some of his father's literary labours, to pay tavern expences. At length he was obliged to dispose of two hundred and forty MS. to his patron the judicious Ralph Sheldon of Weston in Warwickshire Esq." His intemperance does not, however, seem to have been of the gross description stated by Mr. Noble, as in a MS. volume of corrections for Dugdale's Baronage by Anthony Wood, now in the British Museum,* is the annexed passage

* Harl. MSS. 1056, f. 44. It was doubtlessly of this MS. that its author thus speaks in his Life of Sir William Dugdale. "He (Dugdale) had sent his work to him (Wood) to correct and add to them, whereupon spending a whole long vacation in that matter, he drew up at least sixteen

relating to him. Speaking of Dugdale's statement that Christopher Villiers Earl of Anglesey died on the 24th September 1624 he says,

"You had best consider who your author is for this; for surely he enjoyed his honor more than an year for the 18th April 21 Jaq is An. Dom. 1623 I speak this for this reason because in some notes and collections of John Vincent in Mr. Sheldon's library he saith that Christopher Villers Earl of Anglesey breathed forth his last at Windsore on the 3rd April 1630 after he had enjoyed his honor 7 years & was buried there I suppose in St. George's Chapel You say also

sheets of corrections, but more additions; which being sent to the author, he remitted a good part of them into the margin of a copy of large paper of his three tomes of Baronagium." Bliss's *Fasti Oxonienses*, vol. II. p. 26.

that Charles son of the said Christopher died 1659 But J. Vincent saith that the said Charles died issueless An. 1660 presently after the King's restoration. You must know that Jo: Vincent was a boone companion and a great company keeper with noblemen, especially with Basil Earl of Denbigh, and being always inquisitive and happy in a good memory might learn these things."

It is true, an intimacy with nobility, and more especially with the nobility of the reigns of Charles the First and Second, does not necessarily negative the charges of drunkenness and improvidence; but Vincent must have been possessed of merits which are not implied in the account which has been quoted to have been admitted to the society described by Wood, whilst the extract from the *Fasti Oxonienses* requires inser-

tion, as it affords some information respecting the class of persons with whom he associated.

From the following memorandum in Vincent's own hand, which is pasted into a volume of Sir Simon D'Ewes diary, in the British Museum, between the 30th and 31st May, 1644, it would appear that he was in communication with that celebrated antiquary.

"My dwellinge is at Uffington in Lincolneshire within a mile of Stamford, and you may direct any letter thither by the waggoner of Stamford who comes to towne every Saterday, and lyes at ye Crosse keyes in White Crosse streete, and goes out of towne every Munday morninge.

JOHN VINCENT."

Mr. Noble's assertion, that Vincent

* Harl. MSS. 483. f. 74 and 75.

sold his father's MSS. to Mr. Sheldon, is contradicted in a recent publication;* for we are there told, upon the authority of Anthony Wood, that he bequeathed them by his will to that gentleman, "upon conditions that he would pay his debts thereupon, he being at the time of so making his will deep in a dropsy, and relieving several of his books that were pawned for ale." Wood adds, that John Vincent had for several years been pensioned by Mr. Sheldon to encourage his labours. It was in all probability the preceding remark, about the MSS. having been "pawned for ale;" and which, as it will be seen in a subsequent page, he repeated on another occasion, that induced Mr. Noble to charge Vincent

* Hamper's *Correspondence of Sir William Dugdale*, p. 434.

with drunkenness and improvidence; but the former imputation is not sufficiently proved to justify the harsh manner in which he has been spoken of.

With a liberality that does honour to his memory, and which marks in the most unequivocal manner his ardent attachment to genealogical and heraldic studies, Mr. Sheldon, on his death in 1684, left that unrivalled collection to the College of Arms. Of the particulars of that bequest, for the will does not appear to have been proved, all which is known occurs in a letter from Sir William Dugdale to Anthony Wood, dated on the 19th July 1684,* "Item to my good freind and fellow antiquary Mr. Anthony

* Hamper's *Correspondence of Sir William Dugdale.*

a Wood of Merton Coll. in Oxon, I give the sum of ——* desiring him to see my pedigrees and all my MSS. and other papers (except such as are written with my owne hand) to be delivered into the Herald's Office seated neare Paul's Wharf London, and that they may be put into a Cubboard apart from others."

Mr. Sheldon's munificent gift was the source of a bitter quarrel between Wood and Dugdale, produced by the latter's suspicion that he had purloined some of the volumes; and as Wood's letter dated on the 14th of October 1685, in justification of himself, contains an allusion to John Vincent, the following extract from it has been made.

"You must now know that when I

* Mr. Hamper adds in a note that the legacy was 40*l.*

went with the MSS. to London I carried the catalogue of them with me, purposely to cleare all doubts that might happen, whereby I made it manifest to the Society by certaine private marks made with Mr. Sheldon's owne hand that he never received many of the said MSS. and the reason was (as he hath often told me) because John Vincent the sometimes owner of them had pawned several of them in alehouses before he died, so that when Mr. Sheldon went to redeem them after his death he found several of them imbesiled."* It would be useless to enter into the merits of this dispute, and the subject will be concluded by stating that the Members of the College of Arms, in testimony of their gratitude and respect for Mr. Sheldon, have recently placed his portrait in the public

* *Correspondence of Sir William Dugdale*, p. 455.

office,—a compliment equally honorable to those who paid, and to him who is the object of it.

John Vincent married at St. Bennet's Paul's Wharf on the 25th of June, 1646, Frances, daughter and co-heiress of Roger Prichard, of Uffington, in Lincolnshire, and by her, who died in childbed on the 3rd June, 1653, he had issue three sons; John, who was born at Uffington on the 22nd April, 1647, and died S P; Francis, born on the 26th August 1650; Augustine, born on the 3rd June 1653, and died a few months afterwards; and a daughter, Elizabeth, born in September, 1648. No trace has been found either of John Vincent, or of any of his descendants after 1653. In all probability he died in obscurity; nor, as in similar cases in every age, does it appear

that any of his noble "boone companions" relieved the penury of the man in whose wit and talent they had delighted.

The name of Vincent is still common in the rank of yeomen in the parish of Thingdon or Fineden, but there is no proof of their connexion with the subject of this volume.

In 1621 Augustine Vincent received a Grant of Arms, and as that document is not a little curious, and contains some particulars of his family, a verbatim copy of it is inserted.

To all and singuler as well Nobles and Gentlemen as others to whom theis presentes shall come, Sir William Segar Knight Garter Principal King of Armes, William Camden Esquire Clarenceux King of Arms of the East, West, and South partes of the Realme of England on this side of the ryver of Trent, Southward, and Sir Richard St. George Knight Norroy King of Armes of the East West and North partes of the Realme of England and from the river of Trent Northward, send

Greeting in our Lord God Everlastinge. Aunciently from the beginninge, the vertuous and valiant actes of excellent persons have been commended to the world and posterity with sundrie monuments and apt remembrances of their good desertes, among the which the chiefest and most usual have been the bearing of signes and tokens in shieldes and scocheons called Arms, instituted to remain to all ages as continual demonstracions and testimonies of the worthiness of the bearers, and diversly distributed according to their qualities, condicions, estates, and degrees. Howbeit although the same was prudently invented to stirre up and enflame the hartes of men to the imitacion of the like virtue and nobleness shineing in others, and is with no lesse wisdom and good pollicie still continued in these our daies, that such as have done

commendable service to their Prince or Country either in warre, or peace, may not only receive due honor and estimation in this life, so transitorie, but also derive and convey the same to their offspringe and posterity successively for ever. Yet notwithstanding it hath often chanced (by reason of civil warres, invasions of foreign enemies, and many through the negligence of men little regarding their duties, or else by the fatal course and revolucion of years and infelicity of time which is wount to devour all things) that the memory of such well deserving persons hath been utterly lost, laid aside, and drowned in oblivion, whereby not only private families and kindreds of noble race, but also mayne estates of kingdoms and principalities have been greatly blemished and obscured, which was the chief cause that moved empe-

rours, kings, and rulers of the earth in great wisdom, foresight, and pollicie, to institute and ordeyne Kinges, Heraldes, and Officers of Armes, to whose authoritie and charge they committed the preservacion and knowledge of theise thinges, worthy eternitie, the registringe and enrolleing of Armes, Ensignes, and Tokens of Honour, together with the genealogies, pedegrees, and descents, of all Nobility and Gentry as also the marshalling, placing, ordering, and publishing of the same in due forme, meet tyme, and place to their perpetual honour, fame, and renowne. The consideration hereof hath moved us the said Garter, Clarenceux, and Norroy, Kinges of Armes diligently to peruse and view sundry willes, testaments, recordes, and other evidences shewed and presented unto us by Augustine Vincent, alias Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Armes which do suffi-

ciently prove him the said Augustine Vincent to be well borne and descended of such as have borne Armes and tokens of their race and gentry; as being third son of William Vincent of Thingdon in the County of Northampton, second sonne of Richard Vincent of the same, sonne and heir of William Vincent of the same, sonne and heir of William Vincent of Stamford-baron in the said county, Receiver of all the rents and revenewes belonging to the Abbey of Crowland in the time of King Henry the seventh, sonne of William, sonne of Robert Vincent clerke of the Kitchen to Richard Nevil Earl of Warwick,* sonne of Richard Vincent of Bernake near Stamford aforesaid in the Countie aforesaid, father to

* It was probably from this circumstance that Vincent adopted the device which is engraved in Moule's *Bibliotheca Heraldica*, of a Bear holding a Banner.

John Vincent of Bernake and William Vincent a Monke in Crowland Abbey, which John Vincent of Bernake was father of Robert, father of Thomas, father of John, father of David, father of Sir Thomas Vincent Knight, who exchanged Bernacke with Thomas Cecill now Earl of Exeter for other lands in Surrey, father of Sir Francis Vincent Knight and Baronet now living, father of Sir Anthony Vincent of Stoke Dabernon in Surrey Knight; which Augustine Vincent, being occasioned in respect of place and calling to revive and continue the use of Armory, and further touched with a care for the preservation of his birth-right, hath required us the said Kinges of Armes in this manner to testify our knowledges in the premises, and to keep record of the same; and withall hath further desired us for that the auncient

Coat of Armes belonging to that family being Blew, three Quaterfoieles Silver whereunto in the year 1504 A°. 20, H. VII. was added a Bordure of the Second, by Roger Machado alias Richmond Herald, then exercising the office and place of Clarenceux King of Armes, and confirmed to William Vincent of Stamford baron aforesaid, the said Augustine's great grandfather's father, and of later time again confirmed by William Dethick Esquire alias Garter Principall King of Armes the xth of November 1587 in the xxixth year of Queen Elizabeth to Johanne Mulsho, wife of Robert Mulsho of Thingdon aforesaid Esquire, daughter and sole heir of Frauncis Vincent of Thingdon aforesaid, elder brother to the said William, father of the said Augustine, as by the several confirmacions thereof more fully appeareth, which

Bordure he is desirous altogether to waive and leave out, and to betake himself to some other kind of difference which might distinguish him and his posterity from the said auncient and elder house, and which he may beare without prejudice or offence to that or any other family. We the said Kinges of Armes out of an especial zeale and good affection by us borne unto him the said Augustine Vincent alias Rouge Croix for his vertues to us well known, have willingly condiscended unto his request, and by the power and authoritie to us committed under the Great Seale of England have assigned, given, and granted unto the said Augustine Vincent, Gold, upon a Pile blew three-Quaterfoelies perced Silver; and for his Creast, on the Helme a Bear's head Silver, Colloured blacke out of a Crowne

Gold; thereunto addinge Mantles of his Collours, viz^{t}. Azure lined Argent, as more plainely appeareth depicted in the Margent, which Armes and Crest, and every part and parcel thereof we the said Garter, Clarenceux, and Norroy Kinges of Armes, by power and authoritie as aforesaid, and by vertue of our offices of Kinges of Armes do by theis presents, Give, Grant, Ratifie, and Confirme, unto the said Augustine Vincent and to his posteritie for ever, he and they, the same to have, hold, use, bear, enjoy, and shew forth, at all times and for ever hereafter with their due differences according to the Law of Armes, in Shield, Coat, Armour, Penon, Seal, Hatchment or otherwise, at his and their liberty and pleasure without the impediment, let, or interruption, of eny person or persons whatsoever. In

witness whereof we the said Kinges of Armes have hereunto subscribed our names and set to the general seal of the Office of Armes the first day of January in the nineteenth year of the raigne of our most gracious Sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God King of England, France, and Ireland Defender of the Faith &c. and of Scotland the five and fiftieth, 1621.—*From Anstis's Memoirs of Officers of Arms, penes Sir George Nayler.*

THE NAMES OF THE KINGS OF ARMS, HERALDS, AND PURSUIVANTS WHO WERE CONTEMPORARY WITH AUGUSTINE VINCENT; VIZ. FROM THE DATE OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS ROUGE ROSE PURSUIVANT EXTRAORDINARY 22ND FEBRUARY, 12TH JAQ. 1615-6, TO HIIS DEATH, JANUARY 22ND, JAQ. I. 1625-6.

Those marked thus* complimented Vincent upon the publication of his "*Discoverie of Errors.*"

GARTER.

* Sir William Segar Knt. Appointed 1603, ob. Decr. 1633.

CLARENCEUX.

William Camden, Promoted from Richmond 23rd Octr. 1597, ob. 19th Novr. 1623.

Sir Richard St. George, Promoted from Norroy 17th Septr. 1623, ob. 1635.

NORROY.

* Sir Richard St. George, Promoted from

Windsor 1603, Appointed Clarenceux 17th September 1623.

John Borough, Promoted from Mowbray 16th Decr. 1623, Succeeded as Garter 27th Decr. 1633, ob. 1644.

YORK.

Ralph Brooke, Promoted from Rouge Croix 2nd March 1592-3, ob. 15th Octr. 1625.

William Le Neve, Promoted from Mowbray 25th Novr. 1625, Promoted to Norroy 1634.

LANCASTER.

Nicholas Charles, Promoted from Blanch Lion 21st April 1609, ob. 19th Novr. 1613.

William Penson, Admitted to this Office 16th Decr. 1613, ob. 20th April 1637.

WINDSOR.

[Query—Who held this office from 1603 to the 5th April 1617?] Vide Noble, p. 209.

* Samuel Thompson, Promoted from Portcullis 5th April 1617, ob. 15th May 1624.

Augustine Vincent, Promoted from Rouge Croix 1st June 1624, ob. Jany. 1625-6.

SOMERSET.

Robert Treswell alias Creswell, Promoted from Blue Mantle temp Eliz. Sold his Office in June 1624.

John Philipot Promoted from Rouge Dragon 8th July 1624, ob. 1645.

RICHMOND.

* John Raven, Promoted from Rouge Dragon 23rd Octr. 1597, ob. 13th Feby. 1615.

Henry St. George, Promoted from Blue Mantle 22nd March 1615-6, Succeeded as Garter in 1644.

CHESTER.

William Penson, obtained this office in

a sinister manner, and after a long controversy he was admitted to the situation of Lancaster Herald in Dec^{r}. 1613; but the appointment of CHESTER was not filled up until the 5th April 1617, when

Thomas Knight was promoted from Rouge Croix; Resigned before October 1618, when he died.

* Henry Chitting, Appointed 18th July 1618, ob. 7th Jan^{y}. 1637-8.

ROUGE DRAGON.

William Smith, Appointed temp Elizabeth, ob. 1st October 1618.

* John Philipot, Promoted from Blanch Lion Extraordinary, 19th Nov^{r}. 1618, Promoted to Somerset 8th July 1624.

Thomas Thompson, Appointed 29th June 1624, created 8th July following; Promoted to Lancaster 1637.

PORTCULLIS.

Samuel Thompson, Appointed temp Elizabeth; Promoted to Windsor 5th April 1617.

Philip Holland, Promoted from Rouge Rose Extraordinary, 23rd Feby. 1618-9, ob. - - - -.

BLUE MANTLE.

Henry St. George, Appointed 23rd Decr. 1611, Promoted to Richmond, March 1615-6.

* Sampson Lennard, Promoted from Rouge Rose Extraordinary, 22nd March 1615-6, ob. 17th August 1633.

ROUGE CROIX.

Thomas Knight, Appointed 26th March 1592, Promoted to Chester 5th April 1617.

John Gwillim, Appointed 26th Feby. 1618-9, ob. 7th May 1621.

Augustine Vincent, Promoted from

Rouge Rose Extraordinary, 29th May 1621, Promoted to Windsor, 1st June 1624.

John Bradshaw, Promoted from Blanch Rose Extraordinary, 8th June 1624, Promoted to Windsor, January 1625-6.

MOWBRAY HERALDS EXTRAORDINARY.

John Borough, Appointed June 1623, Succeeded as Norroy 18th Decr. following.

William Le Neve, Appointed 24th June 1624, Succeeded as York Octr. 1625.

BLANCH LION PURSUIVANTS EXTRAORDINARY.

John Philipot, Appointed Octr. 1618; Succeeded as Rouge Dragon 19th Novr. following.

Thomas Hamelin, Appointed 14th Feby. 1623.

ROUGE ROSE PURSUIVANTS EXTRAORDINARY.

Philip Holland, Appointed 22nd April 1602, Promoted to Portcullis 23rd Feby. 1618-9.

Sampson Lennard, Appointed in Feby. 1615, Promoted to Blue Mantle 22nd March 1615-6.

Augustine Vincent, Appointed 22nd Feby. 1615-6, Promoted to Rouge Croix 29th May 1621.

* John Bradshaw, Appointed 14th Feby. 1623, Promoted to Rouge Croix 8 June 1624.

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE KINGS OF ARMS, HERALDS, AND PURSUIVANTS, CONTEMPORARY WITH AUGUSTINE VINCENT.

Borough, John, Mowbray and Norroy.

Bradshaw, John, Blanch Lion and Rouge Croix.

Brooke, Ralph, York.

Camden, William, Clarenceux.

Charles, Nicholas, Lancaster.

Chitting, Henry, Chester.

Creswell, alias Treswell, Robert, Somerset.

Gwillim, John, Rouge Croix.

Hamelin, Thomas, Blanch Lion.

Holland, Philip, Rouge Rose and Portcullis.

Knight, Thomas, Rouge Croix and Chester.

Lennard, Sampson, Rouge Rose and Blue Mantle.

Neve, William Le, Mowbray and York.

Penson, William, Chester and Lancaster.

Philipot, John, Blanch Lion, Rouge Dragon, and Somerset.

Raven, John, Rouge Dragon and Richmond.

St. George, Sir Richard, Norroy and Clarenceux.

St. George, Henry, Blue Mantle and Richmond.

Segar, Sir William, GARTER.

Smith, William, Rouge Dragon.

Thompson, Samuel, Portcullis and Windsor.

Treswell, alias Creswell, Robert, Blue Mantle and Somerset.

VINCENT, AUGUSTINE, Rouge Rose, Rouge Croix, and Windsor.

THE END.

ERRATUM.—P. 17, l. 1, for "your deputy lieutenants," read "YEA deputy lieutenants," &c.

ADDENDA.

SINCE the preceding sheets were printed, the Author has been favoured by the Rev. Joseph Hunter, the author of the History of Hallamshire, with some valuable particulars relative to Augustine Vincent's descendants, which, with the subjoined letters from him to Sir Robert Cotton are added with the view of rendering this memoir as complete as possible. The letters are from a MS. in the Cottonian collection, and escaped the author's attention from there being no reference to them in the index to the catalogue.

The first of these letters was evidently

written shortly before the one inserted in p. 74, as in this, Vincent asks to borrow one of the MSS. which in the other he says he had returned. It seems that he was then ill.

To his honoured freind S^r^ Robert Cotton, knight and baronet, theis. dd.

Noble Sir,

if it may not be troublesome to yo^u^ I would intreat that I might borrow of yo^u^ now by my man this bearer, (since I understand your litle paper book of Tewkesbury is out of yo^r^ hands) your Talbot's Collections or any other booke of Records to looke over now while I take Phisick; and I will saftly returne them againe whensoever yo^u^ shall appoint and ever rest

by you to be commanded

AUG. VINCENT.*

* Cotton MSS. *Vespasianus.* F. xiii. f. 340. Sealed with the arms granted to him by the patent of 1621. See p. 102. et seq.

The other letter by fortunately having the date affixed to it, throws some light on the doubt expressed in p. 13, as to Vincent's connexion with the tower. It is manifest from it that he held his office in that repository so late as April, 1621, and it may therefore perhaps be inferred that he continued to do so until his decease in January, 1625.

To his honoured freinde S^r^ Robert Cotton, knight and baronet, theise.

Sir,

Your booke of Canterbury I left at your house for you with yo^r^ lady, wishinge it had been my good fortune to have found yo^u^ within, that I might then have made my suite knowne unto you, which now againe I am bold to solicite you in, that is for your booke of Meaux, to see what is there delivered concerneinge the Earles of Albemarle, and the history of Knighton's*, which shall

* Probably either the present Cotton. MS. *Claudius*. C. iii. or *Tiberius*, C. vii.

very sodainely be restored and safe, and myselfe will ever remaine

ready at yo^r comand

AUG. VINCENT.*

Tower 7 Aprilis 1621.

It is stated in p. 100, that John Vincent, the son of Augustine, had issue three sons, all of whom it is presumed died young, and a daughter Elizabeth, who was born in September, 1648. From the following monumental inscription in the chapel of Worsborough, in the Parish of Darfield, in Yorkshire, it appears that she married Henry Carrington, of the Yews, in Worsborough, Gent. and died on the 11th of October, 1710. The highly complimentary manner in which Augustine Vincent is spoken of, only rendered justice to his merits.

* Cotton ; MSS. *Vespasianus*. F. xiii. f. 333. Sealed with his original arms, Azure, three quaterfoils Argent.

IN SPEM BEATÆ RESURRECTIONIS,
EXUVIÆ HIC JUXTA SUNT RECONDITÆ,
ELIZABETHÆ,
A PROSAPIA SPECTABILI ET AVITA ORIUNDÆ
VINCENTIORUM DE THINGDON
IN AGRO NORTHANTONIENSI.
UXOR FUIT DILECTISSIMA ET DESIDERATISSIMA
HEN. CARRINGTON DE YEWS GEN.
NEPTIS, NEC TALI AVO INDIGNA,
AUGUSTINI VINCENTII,
NOMEN INTER DOCTOS VIRI MAGNUM,
INTER ANTIQUARIOS CELEBERRIMUM.
EXIMIIS INSTRUCTA DOTIBUS,
PIETATE DEVOTISSIMA,
CHARITATE FLAGRANTISSIMA,
PUDICITIA ILLIBATA,
INGENIO SUAVISSIMO,
MORIBUS INTEGERRIMIS,
ET PER OMNES VIRTUTUM GRADUS
SEIPSAM PRÆBUERAT
SPLENDIDUM PRÆSENTI SÆCULO ORNAMENTUM,
EXEMPLUM POSTERIS.
11° OCTOBRIS 1710
ANIMAM DEO REDDIDIT.

By her Mr. Carrington had issue HENRY CARRINGTON, of the Yews, Gent. who died in 1729. He was twice married: first to Jane, daughter and coheiress of Henry Newce, of Much Hadham, D. D. and secondly to Elizabeth Porcy, who died s. p. in 1723. By his first marriage he left an only daughter and heiress ELIZABETH CARRINGTON, who was first the wife of Thomas Ed-

munds, of Worsborough, Esq. who died in December, 1742, and secondly of Edward Crower, of Hatton, in the county of York, Esq. By Mr. Edmunds she had issue eight children, viz;

1. Francis Edmunds, of Worsborough, Esq. a Justice of the Peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire, born 21st of February, 1738, died July, 1825; having married Hannah Maria, daughter of Joseph Offley, of Norton Hall, in the County of Derby, and sister and coheiress of Edmund Offley, Esq. by whom he had issue one son; Francis Offley Edmunds, of Worsborough, Esq. Deputy Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, who married Mary Beresford, daughter of Francis Ferrand Foljambe, of Aldwarle, some time M. P. for the county of York, and is now living without issue: also two daughters; Maria Elizabeth, wife of Henry Martin, of Cilston Bassett, in the county of Nottingham, Esq. by whom she has issue; and Urith Amelia, now living unmarried.

2. WILLIAM CHARLES EDMUNDS, who was in the army, but was lost in Braddock's Expedition: ob. S. P.

3. HENRIETTA who married William Falconer of Bath, M.D. and had issue one child, the Rev. THOMAS FALCONER, of Bath, who is married and has children.

4. 5. JANE and MARGARET, who died unmarried.

6. 7. 8. HENRY, THOMAS, ELIZABETH and KATHERINE, who all died young.

By her second husband, Edward Crower, Esq., ELIZABETH CARRINGTON, had two children; EDWARD CROWER, who died in America unmarried, and FRANCES, who married the Rev. Thomas Sawyer Parris, Rector of Edlington, in the county of York, but has no issue.

Thus it appears that FRANCIS OFFLEY EDMUNDS, of Worsborough, in Yorkshire, Esq. is the representative of AUGUSTINE VINCENT.